

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

August 6, 2019

Chris Pilkerton
Acting Administrator
US Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington DC 20416

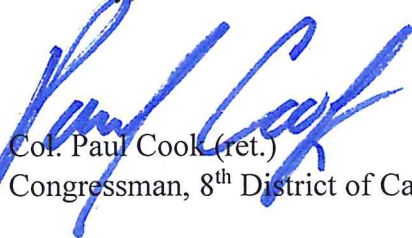
Dear Mr. Pilkerton,

On July 4 and 5, while many Americans were celebrating Independence Day with friends and family, the citizens of Kern County and San Bernardino county experienced significant earthquakes. These 6.4 and 7.1 magnitude earthquakes damaged homes and workplaces, resulting in potentially \$1 billion in economic losses according to the United States Geological Survey. Since the major earthquakes, over 1,400 aftershocks have occurred.

In light of these natural disasters and the serious impact they have had on my constituents, I urge you to classify both Kern and San Bernardino counties as disaster areas to allow resources from the SBA Office of Disaster Assistance to be utilized for the recovery process. I fully support the formal request by California Governor Gavin Newsom and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to this end. This assistance would greatly aid in the recovery process of the region, allowing individuals and businesses to access Home and Personal Property Disaster Loans, Business Physical Disaster Loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Given the economic and physical toll these events have taken on the region, I strongly urge you to review and approve California's request for a disaster declaration for San Bernardino and Kern counties expeditiously. As homeowners and business owners begin to rebuild, it is critical that they have the support they need from SBA. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact my office at (202) 225-5861.

Sincerely,



Col. Paul Cook (ret.)
Congressman, 8th District of California